

IN THE CLAIMS

1-8 (canceled)

8. (original) A combustor for a gas turbine engine, said combustor comprising a spectacle plate, and a plurality of swirlers attached to said spectacle plate, assembling said combustor comprising:

coupling an assembly fixture to at least one said swirler;

removably coupling each respective assembly fixture to the spectacle plate to maintain an alignment of each said respective swirler with respect to said spectacle plate; and

uncoupling each respective assembly from said spectacle plate after each said swirler is attached to said spectacle plate.

9. (original) A combustor in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising a plurality of deflector plates comprising an opening extending therethrough, assembling said combustor further comprising attached said plurality of deflector plates to said spectacle plate such that each said deflector plate opening substantially concentrically aligned with each respective said swirler.

10. (original) A combustor in accordance with Claim 9 wherein each said swirler is welded to said spectacle plate prior to uncoupling each respective assembly fixture.

11. (original) A combustor in accordance with Claim 9 wherein assembling said combustor further comprises:

positioning a first of said deflector plates against said spectacle plate;

positioning a second of said deflector plates against said spectacle plate and circumferentially adjacent said first deflector plate; and

removably coupling an alignment fixture between said first and second deflector plates to maintain a position of said first and second deflector plates with respect to said spectacle plate.

12. (original) A combustor in accordance with Claim 11 wherein each said deflector plate brazed to said spectacle plate, assembling said combustor further comprising removing each respective alignment fixture after said first and second deflector plates are secured to said spectacle plate.

13. (original) An assembly fixture for a gas turbine engine combustor including a spectacle plate, said assembly fixture removably coupled to the spectacle plate during assembly of the combustor for aligning at least one of a plurality of swirlers and a plurality of deflector plates for attachment to the spectacle plate.

14. (original) An assembly fixture in accordance with Claim 13 comprising a plurality of arms and an attachment mechanism, said fixture arms configured to receive a swirler therebetween, said attachment mechanism configured to removably couple said fixture to the spectacle plate such that said swirler aligned with respect to the spectacle plate.

15. (original) An assembly fixture in accordance with Claim 14 configured to uncouple from the spectacle plate after the swirler is secured in position to the spectacle plate.

16. (original) An assembly fixture in accordance with Claim 13 configured to align each respective deflector plate with respect to the spectacle plate such that each swirler attached to the spectacle is substantially concentrically aligned with respect to a center opening extending through each deflector plate.

17. (original) An assembly fixture in accordance with Claim 16 wherein each fixture comprises a clip configured to extend between a pair of circumferentially positioned deflector plates for aligning each deflector plate with respect to the spectacle plate.

18. (original) An assembly fixture in accordance with Claim 17 wherein each said assembly fixture is configured to uncouple from the spectacle plate after each respective pair of deflector plates is secured in position to the spectacle plate.

19. (original) An assembly fixture in accordance with Claim 17 wherein each said assembly fixture is configured to remain coupled to the spectacle plate while each respective pair of deflector plates is brazed to the spectacle plate.